school-teachers sent reports to Budapest about this. They said they could not teach tipsy children. In reality they were angry because the children could not work for them. Teachers are paid by the State. They get very little. But they all have a garden or a small bit of land. And the children work in their garden or on their land. While the first grade has a lesson, let us say, the second, third and fourth grades work in the garden, help in the kitchen to peel potatoes, draw water from the fountain, feed the animals, and so on. They are at school all day. It is a welcome change for them to do work to which they are used half the time.

But they were constantly tipsy, and the teachers got angry. There was a great commotion about this. A committee went to investigate, newspapers wrote about it and some socialist even spoke about it in Parliament. This lasted two months. The children still had their wine-breakfast. Then harvest-time came. So the question was solved. The Parliament went on to more important work—to pass laws, for instance, on how to take away the possessions of Jewish lords and give them to non-Jewish lords. As a general rule they often passed laws about the Jews. First we thought that it would be a good thing. Our district had no Jews. So we thought it was only to give us some Jews too, because the Jews are very good at buying and selling. In other districts, where there are Jews, they come with enormous packs on their backs, full of stuff, and they sell us ribbons, kerchiefs, needles, wool, for eggs, or whatever we have. But it turned out that it was not this kind of law. It was just the business of rich Jews and rich Christians.

The law was hard on poor Jews and some horses. It turned out that there are Jews among the horses too. A horse is a Jew if its owner had more than two Jewish grandparents. And according to one of the new laws a Jewish horse is forbidden to procreate. In Hungary the procreation of horses is under State control. This was tough on some horses.

Nowadays we don't get many foreigners. Before 1914 many of the harvest-gangs were Rumanian or Slovak or Ukrainian. Our lords brought them from distant places so as to make sure that the harvesters couldn't desert if the work was too hard for them. The land-workers of our district, on the other hand, had to go to far-away places. They went as unskilled labourers in the cities; they went to work on railway lines.

A serf in the region where he was born, where he knows the language, is a more daring person than in some foreign part where he knows nothing. So our lords—if they can—mix us up.

871 lish and maintain elementary schools in rural districts. The importance of this was felt most strongly in the Hungarian Prairies where the population is widely scattered in small communities. From these remote districts it was almost impossible for the children to reach the schools, particularly in winter. To help solve this problem residential institutions were opened where the children — mostly of tenant farmers — from scattered farms received board and tuition up to the 8th grade.

875 Lastly, very important steps have been taken to 793 adjust the incomes of the teachers and the clergy and to promote their social welfare.

Social Security Insurance.

745 The Hungarian social insurance system is not of 466 recent origin, although its all-embracing reforms and measures have been adopted in the last twenty years. The most remarkable social achievement in Hungary since the war was the enactment of Act XXI in 1927, instituting compulsory sickness and accident insurance. Of far-reaching importance also is Act XL of 1928, which provided for the creation of compulsory insurance covering retirement pensions, disability, and widows' and guardians' benefits. Later the statistical data concerning the persons insured under these acts will be given. To illustrate the historical [467] background it is sufficient to mention that the miners formed friendly benefit societies as far back as the fifteenth century. In the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century several similar societies were established, which in some branches of production — especially industry and mining — provided some sort of social insurance for their members. In 1891 sickness insurance was made com-